

**AMITY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 5**  
**Bethany Orange Woodbridge**  
**25 Newton Road, Woodbridge, Connecticut 06525**



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Superintendent's Report – December 2018

Continuously improve instruction, cultivate creativity, and enhance student engagement and performance.

Enhance the efficient and effective use of resources.

Foster a supportive climate for students and adults.

**Instruction**

**Pre-ACT Lesson with 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Students:** On Wednesday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, the school counselors each met with their 10<sup>th</sup> grade students to provide a lesson around the Pre-ACT and distribute student scores from the school-wide test given in October. By offering the Pre-ACT to 10<sup>th</sup> grade students and PSAT to 11<sup>th</sup> grade students, we are able to help orient our students to both commonly-accepted college entrance exams.

**Amity Creative Theater Fall Play for School and Community:** The ACT fall play, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, debuted during the school day on December 6<sup>th</sup> for 2 performances—a morning session for 9<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students and an afternoon showing for 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students. On Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, the 8<sup>th</sup> grade students visited to see the play along with student guests from Cheshire High School.

**High School Musical Jr.:** The AMSB Spartan Players performed three outstanding productions of *High School Musical Jr.*, on November 9<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>. Special thanks to the staff: Patrick Laffin, Keith Smolinski, Rob Fragione, Marissa Nall, and Jeremy Iverson and his high school students for videotaping it.

**Amity Welcomes Chinese Delegation:** Twenty-five distinguished Chinese educators, mostly principals, visited both Amity Middle Schools. The educators were from Guangdong Province, one of China's most progressive provinces. The purpose of the visit was to explore how schools in the United States: provide innovative school types and approaches to address student populations; develop school leadership and management strategies to ensure teacher quality and student learning; employ innovative curriculum and teaching methods to improve learning for all students; and promote curriculum innovation and school leadership for teaching and learning by engaging in dialogue with American educators.

**Career Day at AMSB:** AMSB conducted their annual outstanding Career Day program on Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, in spite of a two hour delayed opening!

**Internet Safety Assemblies:** Scott Driscoll, of Internet Safety Concepts, conducted two separate 60-minute assemblies for all seventh and eighth graders on November 27th at AMSB. This was generously supported by Woodbridge Youth Services.

**Fabulous Friendsgiving Dinner:** AMSO Fabulous Friends welcomed over 15 students from the high school and ACES to celebrate Friendsgiving. Students enjoyed participating in activities and sharing a wonderful meal together.

**November 6<sup>th</sup> Professional Learning Day:** The focus was the high school continued with various NEASC meeting groups to progress towards completion for the spring in preparation for a visit in fall 2019. The focus for both middle schools included workshops on the 1:1 initiative and planning for Advisory Groups.

**Math and ELA Academic Action Plans:** Teachers in grades 7 & 8 have started implementing Math and ELA academic action plans in preparation for the Smarter Balanced Assessments (SBA) that will be administered in May 2019. The Action Plans were developed based on previous data and growth measures and include using the released SBA Interim Assessment Blocks instructionally across major content areas. Science teachers will also be reviewing the released interim assessments for grades 8 & 11.

**Amity Teacher Education and Mentoring Program (TEAM):** Facilitators presented Module 5 to teachers currently in TEAM. Module 5 focuses on professional and ethical behavior as a teacher.

**Performance-Based Assessment:** Fifteen teacher participants from Amity are continuing their year-long training for Performance-Based Assessment Designed projects. The group met for a full-day of training at the end of October along with teachers from Stratford and Milford who are participating in this initiative.

## **Resources**

**BOWA Principals Meeting:** A luncheon was held during November for the BOWA elementary, middle school, and high school principals to meet and discuss various topics. Dr. McPadden facilitated the meeting.

**Lions Club Donation:** Bethany Lions President, Susan Hurlburt, presented AMSB with a check for \$1200 as a scholarship fund for Nature's Classroom. This contribution will enable several students to attend the invaluable five-day program.

## **Climate**

**2018 Homecoming Dance:** This year's homecoming dance, which is always an integral part of the student government "spirit week," was the most successful dance in school history. Over 700 students (almost 50% of the student population) attended and enjoyed dancing and food from Chipotle, Subway, Dominoes and other local merchants. This student-led climate activity has become one of the highlights of the fall for ARHS.

**SCSU Social Justice Conference:** On the afternoon of Tuesday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 26 Amity Regional High School Students attended the first-ever Social Justice Conference at Southern CT State University. This conference featured break-out workshops for students to discuss issues of social justice, including micro-aggressions, as well as a keynote address from student activist David Hogg.

**Presentations to AMSO Students:** The Milford Rape Crisis Center conducted small group presentations for both the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade program focused on sexual harassment and knowing the different forms of sexual harassment. The focus of the 8<sup>th</sup> grade program was to help students develop a basic understanding of sexually based offenses and what consent is. Both programs meet the Statewide Sexual Abuse and Assault Awareness Program that school districts are required to provide.

**Anti-Defamation League Additional Training for AMSO Students:** Building on the whole school presentation done last month, the Anti-Defamation League returned to AMSO to conduct workshops on bystander training and becoming an ally with over forty 7<sup>th</sup> grade students.

**Therapy Dog Visits AMSO:** Graham, a trained therapy dog came in to work with AMSO students in Mrs. Edward's class. Through interactions with the dog, students learn empathy and work on social skills while enjoying a visit with a furry friend.

**Advisory Program Staff Training at AMSB:** Dr. Frank, a former principal of Amity Regional High School, presented to the AMSB a session on forming an Advisory Program. Dr. Frank shared a wealth of experience with all staff members.

**1st Annual Be AMITY! 5k and Fun Run:** Marissa Nall and Elisa Laudati organized the 1st Annual Be AMITY! 5k and Fun Run on Saturday, November 17 which raised more than \$2,500 for local families with special financial needs. Thanks to our special donors: Laticrete International, Country Companions Veterinary Services, LLC, Daly Insurance, and Murphy, Laudati, Kiel and Rattigan, LLC.



Jennifer P. Byars, Ed.D.

*This report is a synopsis of many of the undertakings, efforts, and achievements toward our District Goals and Objectives. It does not represent a complete and comprehensive account of all that has happened in the past month. I would encourage you to contact me directly if you have questions about items that you read or that you anticipated reading. I would be glad to discuss them.*